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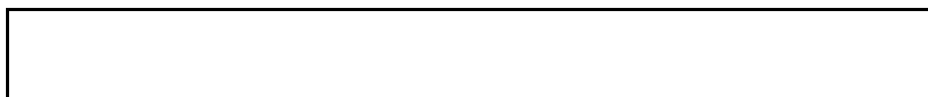
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PHILIPPINES: Marcos reacts to furor over agreements
with US.

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PHILIPPINES: PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DE-ESCALATE THE PUBLIC FUROR HE RECENTLY STIRRED UP OVER THE RENEGOTIATION OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH THE US.

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MARCOS TOLD THE US AMBASSADOR ON 5 JULY THAT, DESPITE INFLAMMATORY PRESS STORIES CALLING FOR A DRAS-
TIC REALIGNMENT OF US-PHILIPPINE TREATY RELATION-
SHIPS, HE PERSONALLY DID NOT WANT MAJOR CHANGES IN
THE EXISTING CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
HE SUGGESTED THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD NAME TOP-LEVEL
NEGOTIATING PANELS IN DECEMBER WITH THE EXPECTATION
THAT FINAL DECISIONS WOULD BE REACHED SOME TIME IN
FEBRUARY OR MARCH OF 1973. INDICATIVE OF MARCOS'
DESIRE TO TONE DOWN THE US BASE AGREEMENTS AS A
PUBLIC ISSUE WAS HIS ANNOUNCEMENT ON 4 JULY THAT THE
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TODAY, WHICH WAS
TO HAVE DISCUSSED PHILIPPINE STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH THE US, WOULD INSTEAD EXAMINE THE FUTURE
OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION.

MARCOS FIRST CALLED FOR RENEGOTIATION OF US
ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TREATIES WITH THE PHILIPPINES
IN EARLY JUNE IN AN EFFORT TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTEN-
TION FROM HIS SHADY DOMESTIC POLITICAL TACTICS.
THIS PLOY SUCCEEDED SO WELL, HOWEVER, THAT HE MAY
NOW FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BACK OFF QUICKLY. MORE-
OVER, HIS ABILITY TO DEFLATE THIS ISSUE MAY BE COM-
PLICATED BY OPPOSITION LEADER SENATOR AQUINO'S
SWEEPING CRITICISMS OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE
PHILIPPINES, WHICH CONTINUE TO MAKE HEADLINES IN
MANILA.

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